

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 11305 251002 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 OMB-01 IGA-02 EB-11

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

RSR-01 /162 W

----- 026311

R 250915 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9503

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A DECONTROL 12/31/75

TAGS: MASS, EG, LY, FR

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN' S EASTER DEMARCHE TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR HURE, PUBLIC INTEREST IN QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF FRENCH SUPPLIED MIRAGES FROM LIBYA TO EGYPT HAS AGAIN INCREASED. WITH PARIS COMPLETELY CLOSED FOR EASTER WEEKEND, THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON EBAN' S DEMARCHE, THOUGH QUAI SOURCES APPARENTLY TOLD PRESS THAT EBAN HAD NOT FURNISHED FRENCH AMBASSADOR ANY DOCUMENT OR PROOF OF TRANSFER. FRENCH PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR GIVEN BASIS ON WHICH ISRAEL BASED ITS CONVICTIONS THAT TRANSFER HAD TAKEN PLACE.

2. GAULLIST LA NATION IN ITS APRIL 24 ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING TRANSFER AND SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE OF WAITING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS. IT REITERATES FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHABAN DELMAS' STATEMENT OF JANUARY 1970 THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT "FEED CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST" AND THAT IF MIRAGES CHANGED DESTINATION THERE WOULD BE EMBARGO ON THOSE NOT YET DELIVERED. NATION ASSURES ITS READERS THAT FRANCE DOES NOT HAVE DOUBLE STANDARD AS FAR AS ARMS SUPPLIES GO, BUT JUSTIFIES ARMS SALES TO LIBYA ON BASIS OF COMMON MEDITERRANEAN INTERESTS.

3. RIGHTIST AURORE IN SIGNED EDITORIAL APRIL 24 STATES THAT THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT IN CASE OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT FRENCH MIRAGES WOULD BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. IT WARNS THAT GOF WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE WHICH IS OF "ALMOST LEGENDARY EFFECTIVENESS." GOF IT SAYS WILL HAVE DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE IF ISRAELI EVIDENCE MADE PUBLIC: EITHER A) TO ADMIT IT HAD BEEN DUPED BY LIBYANS AND HENCE SUSPEND DELIVERIES, OR B) TO ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE EXTENT OF VIOLATIONS THEREBY TILTING POLICY MORE OVERTLY IN ARAB DIRECTION. DECONTROL 12/31/75.  
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980202  
**Subject:** LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO  
**TAGS:** MASS, EG, FR, LY  
**To:** ALGIERS  
MOSCOW  
NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
TEL AVIV  
TRIPOLI  
TUNIS

**Type:** TE

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